

ANS NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



Broadway at 155th Street, New York, NY 10032

212/234-3130

January 1979



SOCIETY UNVEils EXHIBIT "SAMPLER"

The Society's Annual Meeting was highlighted by the unveiling of two new exhibition cases. The purpose of this prototype exhibit is to judge the suitability of new case designs and gauge viewer reaction to a small section of the proposed new exhibit, "The World of Money," planned for the Society's west hall, last remodelled in 1958.

The 2-unit display, selected from the 45 units which will comprise the future exhibit, deals with the earliest copper and silver coins of Rome and shows how this obscure period of Roman monetary history has been illuminated by the numismatist and the archaeologist.

Here, as in the full-scale exhibit, the emphasis is on the numismatic objects as integral to the continuous stream of human history. The exhibit is designed to go beyond the coins themselves to show how the numismatist goes about the task of recovering the past through the numismatic evidence and what tools he has at his disposal.

Construction of the prototype cases was generously underwritten by Harry W. Fowler, First Vice-President of the Society.

Project Began in 1977

Detailed planning for "The World of Money" began in November 1977 with the receipt of a \$13,000 planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Michael Bates and William Metcalf of the Society's curatorial staff conceived the new exhibit and have served since the beginning as the Project Directors.

To these two curators fell the initial responsibility of creating the exhibit

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1979 CONGRESS UPDATE

The 9th International Numismatic Congress is scheduled to take place in Berne, Switzerland, September 10-15, 1979. A detailed program guide for participants is currently in preparation and will be mailed to registrants in early February, according to the Swiss Organizing Committee.

Individuals who have not sent in a pre-registration card and who are contemplating attending the congress may

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ERIC P. NEWMAN NAMED HUNTINGTON MEDALLIST

Eric P. Newman of St. Louis, Missouri, was awarded the Archer M. Huntington Medal for 1978 at the Society's Annual Meeting. Mr. Newman is the first American since 1961 to receive the award, which is given annually to scholars throughout the world in recognition of outstanding achievement in numismatic research.

Mr. Newman is the only winner of the award to date who specializes in the study of American colonial and United States coinage.



Linda Newman Solomon accepts Huntington Medal from ANS Councillor Theodore Buttrey, Jr.

Award Citation

Theodore V. Buttrey, Jr. of the University of Michigan, presented the citation prepared by the Huntington Award Committee:

"The state of research in the field of American numismatics has a curious feature. While the number of researchers is legion, the percentage of them who can write well, disseminating their findings to a large audience, is extremely small. Eric P. Newman, this year's recipient of the Archer M. Huntington Medal, is a member of this select group, perhaps its outstanding representative.

"His publication career, which spans

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secure the program guide by contacting the ANS.

Registration; Hotels

Contained in the program guide are the registration form and hotel reservation card. The registration fee, SFr. 160. includes general admission, banquet ticket, Lake Thun excursion, and the *Survey of Numismatic Research*. The fee for accompanying persons, SFr. 100. excludes the *Survey*.

A variety of hotel accommodations are available in Berne and are detailed in the program guide, ranging from \$13 to \$47 per night at the current rate of .59 per SFr. A large number of rooms with bath are available in the \$25-30 range for singles and \$42-48 double, breakfast, service and taxes included.

Air Travel

World View Vacations, 641 Lexington Avenue, New York 10022 has been selected to coordinate travel plans for American participants. Through World View, a special group rate can be arranged for roundtrip travel by Swissair from New York.

Those who would like to combine attendance at the Congress with an inexpensive vacation abroad are urged to contact William F. Spengler, P.O. Box 537, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901. Mr. Spengler, a Fellow of the ANS, has arranged through World View Vacations to lead a group on a Congress/numismatic/sightseeing tour during the period September 8-23. The tentative itinerary includes: leave New York, Saturday, September 8 via Swissair to Zurich; proceeding to Berne on the 9th for the Congress; on to Paris by air on the 15th for four days of sightseeing and numismatics, flying to London on the 19th for an additional four days of museum, dealer, collector visits; and returning to New York on Sunday, the 23rd.

Travel Grants Available

The American Council of Learned Societies is accepting applications for a limited number of travel grants, available on a competitive basis, for humanists participating in the Congress. Applicants must hold a PhD degree or its equivalent; be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or Canada; and be presenting papers or filling other active scholarly roles (such as chairing a session) at the Congress. Financial assistance is limited to one-

MICHAEL BATES REPORTS ON FUSTAT EXCAVATIONS



Michael Bates on location at Fustat.

In a welcome break from office routine, I spent September and October as numismatist for the 1978 excavations at Fustat, the mediaeval predecessor of Cairo. Excavating a site in the heart of a great city offers striking contrasts: my working hours, from 6 to 1:30, were spent in a tent pitched in a barren dusty wasteland, dependent, for washing coins and for coffee, on water from clay pots filled by an old man who made endless trips with two five-gallon tin cans slung from a pole across his shoulders; but 20 minutes away by Land Rover was our modern apartment building where hot showers, a refrigerator full of Stella beer, and a three course luncheon on linen tablecloth awaited us.



Role of the Numismatist

half of the economy class air fare. Recipients of the grant are required to use U.S. flag carriers and to file a substantive report following the Congress.

The deadline for submitting the completed application is March 1, 1979. Information and forms may be requested directly from the ACLS-Travel Grant Program, 345 East 46th Street, New York, NY 10017. Please indicate International Numismatic Congress, September 10-15, 1979, Berne, Switzerland and include a brief statement describing your proposed role in the Congress.

Although travel grants will be made on the recommendation of the ANS, membership in the Society is not required.

At first I had time to spare to watch over our workmen at the site, to learn the rudiments of mediaeval pottery identification, and to tour the pharmacies and scientific supply houses looking for chemicals and equipment. But once the digging was in full swing my time was more than filled cleaning and identifying some 10 to 20 coins per day, while keeping every tiny fragment associated with the record of its find-spot.

For the archaeologist, a full-time numismatist can be a great advantage, especially on an urban site where coins, the most important key to dating other finds, are usually found in quantity. As

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an alumnus of the ANS Summer Seminar, the Director of the excavation, George Scanlon of the American University in Cairo, was well aware of the value of numismatic evidence; more than once he complained facetiously when my coins refused to come from the century he wanted. But he was sympathetic (almost always) to my frustration with coins, that, after days of cleaning, yielded only a few traces of illegible inscription or, worse still, finally crumbled into bits of solid corrosion.

Some 350 coins and coin weights were found in the eight-week session. Almost all were from Egypt, aside from one anonymous 11th century Byzantine bronze and a few Mamluk coppers of Damascus. In date, they ranged from a couple of unidentifiable Ptolemaic bronzes to a 1973 piastre, but most of the finds in undisturbed contexts came from the period between Fustat's foundation in A.D. 642 by the new Arab conquerors and its burning in 1168 to prevent its occupation by the Crusaders.

After the fire, Fustat became a rubbish dump for Cairo. The organic components of the rubbish turned into rich brown loam, which has been and still is constantly disturbed by specialists who sell it to farmers for fertilizer. This overburden, from three to five meters deep, yielded many coppers of the 13th and early 14th century and then nothing until late 19th and 20th; but the latter coins were as likely to be found near the bottom of the layer as the former.

A Valuable Experience

No new coins were found this season; the coinage of Egypt is by this time well-documented if incompletely understood. For the numismatist, especially one like me who is interested in monetary history, it is exciting to see the minor coinage of Egypt more or less as it actually was in circulation rather than as it is reflected in the holdings of museums. For the most part, the coins that end up in museums are those sufficiently identifiable and attractive to be of value to dealers and collectors; even coins turned over to museums from excavations (a selection of the 1978 Fustat coins will ultimately come to the ANS) are often only those considered specially worthy of note. Take for example the small, heavily-alloyed silver bits which were the everyday currency of 12th century Egypt. These were once considered rare, but a good many were found this season at Fustat.

Those which could be specifically attributed came entirely from the period immediately before and after the fire of 1168. Most of these bits were identifiable only in a general way by fabric and traces of inscription. Many were so tiny and so corroded as to be unrecognizable as coins except to the eye of an expert and by virtue of their association with other coins. After a season of work with such small and unattractive objects, one can well imagine that the bulk of these coins in casual or illicit finds are melted down or thrown away before entering the trade, thus accounting for the present rarity of a coinage which must once have circulated in abundance.

An equally valuable result of my stay in Cairo was the opportunity to get to know my numismatic colleagues at the Museum of Islamic Art as well as other scholars and collectors whose hospitality and generosity will be long remembered. I was also honored by invitations to lecture at the American Research Center in Egypt and the Center for Arabic Studies of the American University.

THREE ELECTED TO COUNCIL

Three members of Council were elected to new five-year terms at the Society's Annual Meeting: Roger A. Hornsby, Chairman, Department of Classics, University of Iowa; R. Henry Norweb, Jr., Executive Director and Vice President, Holden Arboretum, Cleveland; and John J. Slocum, U.S. Foreign Service Officer (ret.), of Newport, Rhode Island.

Calendar (continued from page 6)

June

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 | Opening day for ANS Summer Seminar |
| 30 | Deadline for submission of articles for <i>ANSMN</i> 25 |

July

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Society closed-Independence Day |
| 20 | Finance Committee Meeting
Council Meeting |

29-August 2

ANA Convention, St. Louis Convention Center. ANS volunteers will man the ANS Information Booth; Special ANS Exhibit will be on display in Exhibit Hall



NEWEST COUNCILLOR FAMILIAR NAME

R. Henry Norweb, Jr., elected at the Annual Meeting to his first full term as a Councillor, initially joined the Council in September 1978 succeeding his father, the Honorable R. Henry Norweb. Mr. Norweb, Jr. thus continues the Norweb family representation on the Society's governing board which began with the election of R. Henry Norweb to the Council in 1960.

For the past decade since 1968, the Society has been served by both Mr. and Mrs. Norweb as members of the Council. Following their resignation in September, the senior Norwebs were elected Honorary Councillors for Life of the Society.

Mr. Norweb, Jr. brings to the Council a solid background in management of not-for-profit organizations. In addition to his responsibilities as Executive Director and Vice President of the Holden Arboretum in Cleveland, he serves on the boards of a number of successful organizations including the Cleveland Orchestra and Western Reserve Historical Society. His knowledge of foundation giving practices includes participation in solicitation efforts and a policy role in the awarding of grants, the latter in his capacity as a Trustee of the John Huntington Fund.

Mr. Norweb's coin collecting interests are far ranging, reflecting his life-long exposure to numismatics. His activities center now on Western Hemisphere issues, an interest shared by his wife, the former Elizabeth Gardner. The dividing line, according to Mr. Norweb, is that while he studies official coinages, his wife prefers to work with tokens and other ancillary numismatic issues.

Mr. Norweb has a son, R. Henry Norweb III and two daughters, Mrs. Paul R. Abbey and Mrs. Jeffrey R. McManus.

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more than three decades, has tended to emphasize two main approaches to the question of American numismatics. The first of these might be called setting the record straight—that is, getting to the bottom of controversial or misunderstood facts of the field and answering the questions surrounding them beyond the reasonable shadow of a doubt. His work on the 1804 dollar falls into this category, as does his well-known *Secret of the Good Samaritan Shilling*. One notes, too, his research into the techniques of modern forgeries of Western gold.

"The second thrust of Mr. Newman's research has been the organization and cataloguing of obscure or neglected areas of our numismatic experience. In this capacity, his labors on the Vermont and Connecticut state coinages are important, while his *Early Paper Money of America*, a truly pioneering effort in the field of colonial paper currency, will most certainly remain the definitive work on this subject.

"Mr. Newman is well known to members of the Society. He has served on our governing Council since 1962, rendering distinguished service in this capacity. He currently chairs the Standing Committee on Western Hemisphere Coins, and he served as senior editor of *Money in Early America*, the Society's publication for the American Bicentennial. In terms of his services to the Society and to the field of numismatics in general, he richly merits the award he is receiving today."

Daughter Accepts

Mr. Newman, whose long-standing plans to visit Antarctica prevented him from being present, was represented by his daughter, Linda N. Solomon, who read her father's acceptance:

1 FELLOW, 19 ASSOCIATES ELECTED

The Society's Council, at its January meeting, elected R. Ross Holloway as a Fellow of the Society. Mr. Holloway is Professor of Mediterranean Archaeology at Brown University and serves as Director of the Brown University Archaeological Expedition to the Mediterranean. His most recent publication is *Art and Coinage in Magna Graecia*.

The Council also elected 19 individuals to Associate Membership: Mark E. Goldberg, Beverly Hills, CA; William J. Bareford, Germantown, TN; Robert B.



Medal awarded to Eric P. Newman.

"Any expression of my delight on learning of the award of the Archer M. Huntington Medal would be an understatement. It is an honor I will always respectfully cherish. I wish I could be present personally to receive it, but, of all places to be at this time, I am in Antarctica—the only continent entirely devoid of numismatic history. My appreciation and thanks to the American Numismatic Society are nevertheless very warm.

"Research work in numismatics has been a lifetime of sheer pleasure for

Hitchner, Ann Arbor, MI; Henry T. Hettger, Arlington, VA; Juha Jaakola, Tampere, Finland; Ibrahim Kamel, Cairo, Egypt; Erkki Keckman, Loviisa, Finland; Harold L. Klawans, Highland Park, IL; John L. Latham, Jr., Greensboro, NC; Aleksandras Loja, Houston, TX; Virginia Shaw Medlen, Fort Polk, LA; Charles Merrill, Palm Beach, FL; Sheikh Nasser al-Sabah, Kuwait, Kuwait; Yusif Said Natsheh, East Jerusalem, Israel; Raafat M.A. Nabaraway, Cairo, Egypt; Richard Oster, Memphis, TN; Jim Powell, Ridgefield, CT; Jocelyn P. Small, New York, NY; Abraham D. Sofaer, New York, NY.

me—in simple terms, a satisfaction in trying to solve numismatic puzzles for myself and for others. Being a vigorous collector of numismatic items for 57 years has never been sufficient for me and, thus, research has been my way of filling the gap.

"Numismatics as a scientific pursuit has always been a unique challenge for those who study what people from time to time have done to stabilize their economic life. The fact that numismatic studies may cover diversified subject matter, widely separated periods of time, and geographical areas with extensive differences, politically and economically, has not prevented researchers from being able to help each other. Thus, I have been the beneficiary of stimulation and guidance from the writings of and association with those in many other numismatic fields and locations.

"I realize I have been substantially influenced by many of the past recipients of the Huntington Medal. The cooperation received from libraries, museums, historical associations, professional numismatists, private collectors and other researchers has been a privilege. I therefore feel that this Award is being shared by everyone who takes part in bringing greater fulfillment to our lives through the cultural pursuit of numismatics."

Following these remarks, Mrs. Solomon conveyed her personal sense of "pride and happiness" at taking part in ceremonies honoring her father and having her three children present to witness the recognition accorded their grandfather. Mrs. Solomon is the wife of Peter J. Solomon, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development of the City of New York.

LEO MILDENBERG APRIL SPEAKER

Leo Mildenberg of Zurich, Switzerland is the scheduled guest lecturer at the Society's Members Meeting on April 7. His topic for the Joseph B. and Morton M. Stack Memorial Lecture is "'Master Forgeries of Ancient Coins.'

'Mr. Mildenberg, Director of the Numismatic Department of Bank Leu, Zurich, is well-published in the area of Greek numismatics. During the week prior to his Society lecture, Mr. Mildenberg will be speaking at Harvard University.'

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES REVISE DONOR RECOGNITION, MEETING SCHEDULE

Amendments to the Society's Constitution enacted at the Annual Meeting on January 13 increase fourfold the value of contributions required for designation as a Benefactor or Patron of the Society and move the Fall Members Meeting from November to October.

Benefactor Level Now \$100,000

As amended, Article XI, Sections 1 and 2 of the Society's Constitution now read:

"1. Any person or organization who has contributed One Hundred Thousand Dollars or, in the judgement of the Council of the Society, its equivalent, to the funds, cabinets, library and collections of the Society, shall be entitled to be designated a Benefactor of the Society.

"2. Any person or organization who has contributed Ten Thousand Dollars or, in the judgement of the Council of the Society, its equivalent, to the funds, cabinets, library and collections of the Society, shall be entitled to be designated a Patron of the Society."

Benefactor and Patron rates were last increased in 1958 to \$25,000 and \$2,500. The new levels take cognizance of the fact that during the past 20 years, numismatic values have increased and the purchasing power of the dollar has decreased significantly. Those already designated Benefactors or Patrons are unaffected by these changes.

Fall Meeting in October

In addition, Article VIII, Section 2 has been amended to read:

"Regular meetings of the Society shall be held in April and October, unless otherwise designated by the Council."

The effect of this amendment is to move the Fall Members Meeting from November to October. The other two member's meetings, the Spring Meeting in April and the Annual Meeting in January remain unchanged.

In conjunction with this change, the Society's Council has revised its meeting schedule to spread four meetings evenly throughout the year. Remaining meetings in 1979 are April 7, July 20 and October 13.

"The scholarly study of numismatics frequently requires a good reading knowledge of one or more foreign languages, as they relate both to legends on the coins themselves and to scholarly literature written in a variety of foreign languages by foreign numismatists. The Council of the American Numismatic Society therefore supports the efforts of the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies to promote the teaching and study of foreign languages in American educational institutions and in American life."

GREEK COMMITTEE SUPPORTS FILE PROJECT

The Society's Standing Committee on Greek Coins has lent its support to a research project involving examination of the entire 300,000 coin illustrations in the Society's Greek photo-file. This file, culled from numismatic sales catalogues going back to the beginning of the 20th century is an important tool for anyone working in the field of Greek numismatics.

The usefulness of the file is directly related to its accuracy. However over the years various filing systems have been employed and many sections are now considered unreliable. Hyla Troxell, a member of the Greek Committee, in cooperation with the Society's Greek Curator, Nancy Waggoner, has devised a simplified filing system which will facilitate future accuracy.

Committee funds have been used to provide a grant to Alan Stahl, a former summer seminar student and recent PhD, to permit him to examine the entire Greek file and reclassify each card according to the new arrangement. This three month project, now underway, is expected to be completed by the end of February.

Once corrected, the present Greek photo-file will be closed to include all sales catalogues issued through the end of 1977. A new file, utilizing a more compact filing arrangement, will be started for illustrations published from January 1, 1978.

The members of the Greek Committee are: John D. Leggett, Jr., Chairman; Harry W. Fowler; Arthur Houghton; William F. Spengler; Hyla A. Troxell; Nancy Waggoner, Secretary.

BENEFACTORS RECORDED

Five names have been added to the Society's roll of Benefactors. Ira M. Goldberg, Lawrence S. Goldberg and Mark Goldberg presented the Society with an outstanding collection of medals, dies and working models by the German medalist, Karl Goetz. William F. Spengler donated his extraordinary collection of Indo-Greek and Bactrian coins. The Franklin Mint, the first organization to become a Benefactor of the Society, has been a regular contributor to the Society's cabinets since 1966 and has provided important financial support as well.

Patron List Expanded

The list of Patrons of the Society has been expanded to include John R. Francis, a regular contributor to the Society's collections and library for over 20 years; Mrs. Edgar J. Mandel, Korean coins; Hans H. Munte, Roman; Robert Sillins, medals of Karl Goetz; The Jubilee Fund of Bank Leu and the Stiftung der Münzen und Medaillen AG, both of which have provided financial support for Society publications.

ANS ENDORSES FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING

In September President Carter appointed a Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies charged with the responsibility of defining issues and practices for language education in the United States. The Commission, chaired by James A. Perkins, Chairman of the International Council for Educational Development, expects to complete its work by the summer of 1979.

In order to alert the Commission to the concerns of professional humanists in this subject, joint Modern Language Association/American Council of Learned Societies Language Task Forces were organized and they have prepared detailed reports for submission to the Commission. The ANS is a constituent member of the ACLS.

As a demonstration of the interest of the Society in language training and support for the objectives of the President's Commission, the Council of the ANS passed the following resolution at its January meeting:

Calendar

February

- 10 Society closed-Lincoln's Birth-day

March

- 1 Deadline for application for ANS Summer Seminar
 Deadline for application for ANS Graduate Fellowships
 Deadline for ACLS travel grant application for the International Numismatic Congress
- 9 Finance Committee Meeting
 Executive Committee Meeting
- 20 *Numismatic Literature* 101 to membership

April

- 7 Spring Members Meeting of the Society; Guest Speaker Leo Mil-denberg, Zurich
 Council Meeting
 Meeting of the Committee on Islamic and South Asian Coins

May

- 4 Meeting of the Committee on East Asian Coins
- 15 Deadline for submission of material for *Numismatic Literature* 102

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outline followed by development of the complete text. Under the terms of the grant, the Society was able to secure the services of George Gardner, of the American Museum of Natural History, as Consultant on design and graphics and Bonnie Pitman-Gelles as Education Consultant.

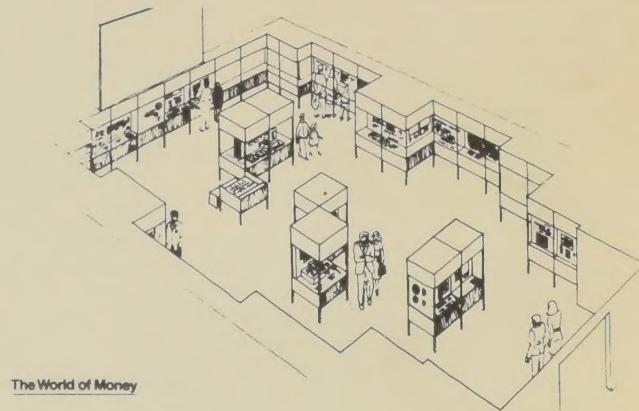
Emphasis on Interpretation

From the beginning the goal has been to bring the collective experience and knowledge of the Society's staff to bear on interpreting the numismatic objects on view. To emphasize this approach, a special feature is included at various points throughout the proposed exhibit. Announced by the recurring headline "*How Do We Know?*" these sections demonstrate how the numismatist's mind works in solving the problems

associated with the identification, classification and assignment of purpose of various coinages. These sections touch on a variety of methodologies used by the trained numismatist including, for example, archaeological stratification, hoards, die identity and linkage, metrology and artistic style.

\$140,000 Price Tag

The total cost to build and install "The World of Money" is estimated at \$140,000. Initial funding has been received in the form of a \$10,000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts and major support will be solicited from the NEH. A sizeable portion of the necessary funding must come from the private sector—contributions in any amount for this exhibit are welcome and deeply appreciated.



The World of Money

Sketch of proposed exhibit by George Gardner.

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The American Numismatic Society

BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10032